



Merry Christmas The Guardian

VOLUME 39, Issue 12

December 2008

Vice President's Message

By Sergeant Ty Elster, SPOG Vice President

Laundry is important stuff. Special care should be taken during the cleaning of laundry, as airing it out in public could be very revealing. In the last several weeks I've had a number of inquiries regarding the lack of a rebuttal to certain articles in *The Guardian*. If you are one of the "inquirers" you will have to be satisfied knowing that airing some things will serve no purpose other than to give our detractors a peek at our members boxers and briefs. Bottom line; don't look for a rebuttal on that subject anytime soon.

Recently, some of our members were enlisted to wear personal video cameras on their uniforms. And still others have voluntarily worn these same cameras on their own accord. There are a number of problems with the use of these cameras. Even if we overlook the lack of "notice" to the public that they are being recorded, just think of all of the inadvertent video we will be taking of ourselves. If we submit to this level of data collection, we will be forever exposed on all fronts. No longer will the locker room be considered a sanctuary where officers can feel free to speak their minds. All it takes is for one person to forget to turn off their camera (or it gets turned on accidentally) and suddenly a private conversation is fodder for YouTube. Privacy will be a thing of the past. Yes, the cameras will be great for prosecution, but are we willing to forever succumb to a level of scrutiny that will require us to be perfect robots who adhere to the letter of our 1,200 page manual at all times? For those who care, SPOG's official position on the use of these cameras is that this is a subject of bargaining and right now the City doesn't have a large enough bank account to buy this privilege from us. In the meantime, don't even think about wearing one of these cameras!

Not too long ago, a minor disciplinary issue arose with one of the officers assigned to my watch. The issue arose primarily because the officer was adjusting the system to better accommodate him/herself. Although the officer is very competent, this minor issue was going unchecked due to an

immediate lack of supervision. This is a direct result of the NPP (Neighborhood Policing Project) reorganization, which only allows this officer's sergeant to see him/her at best two days each week. Even less if one of them has any scheduled time off or is assigned to training. In those cases, several weeks can go by without the officer having any contact with his/her sergeant.

This leads to an attitude that we all just kind of work in the same area and occasionally we work on the same days. However, we are not responsible for any one area or squad let alone any individual officer. And the officers don't have to answer to any one supervisor, either. If things aren't going their way, they'll just do some sergeant shopping and find somebody who will approve whatever they need. This leads to a very chaotic atmosphere that is very difficult to monitor. And let's face it, a sergeant has a hard enough time keeping track of their own squad without throwing in everyone else assigned to the watch.

Anyway, this minor disciplinary issue keeps sticking its pesky head above the waves every time the officer's sergeant is scheduled off. Yes, that means it happens every week. As a result, the issue has grown and the officer's sergeant has been instructed to deal with it by the watch commander. Now how, do you ask, can a sergeant manage a squad of officers who he rarely sees? And better still, how are sergeants supposed to deal with minor issues before they grow into major problems when we are working different schedules from the officers assigned to our sector? The answer, we can't!

If that isn't frustrating enough, other sergeants have been tasked with dealing with this issue when the officer's sergeant is off. This puts them (the other sergeants) in the very awkward position of being forced to involve themselves in another sergeant's personnel issue, a delicate task at best. This is awkward for everyone involved and especially for the officer who is now "getting it" from all sides.

What should have been a minor issue that in years past would have taken nothing more than a stern look from the officer's sergeant has now grown into a major problem. And what do we have to blame for this mess? NPP of course!

Speaking of squads, we recently had a brand new officer assigned to our watch. His first day in the sector was his sergeant's first day off (his Monday, his sergeant's Saturday). He arrives in time for roll call and sits quietly in the back of the room with a bunch of other fresh faces that were still on FTO status. He sits through roll call but doesn't hear his name called and due to the emphasis to get logged

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Remembering Our Fallen Heroes



- Arthur Ruckart EOW: 12-27-1914
- Lawrence Kost EOW: 12-12-1915
- Ellsworth Cordes EOW: 12-31-1932
- John Clancy Jr. EOW: 12-28-1949
- Nicholas Davis EOW: 12-18-1984

Gone But Not Forgotten

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The Guardian

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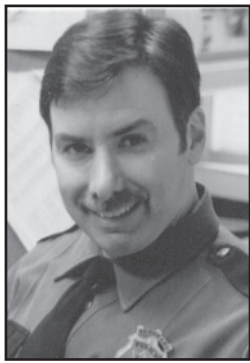
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President's Message

By Sergeant Rich O'Neill, SPOG President



One of the hardest parts of my job as President is being involved with OPA investigations where it places one dues paying member against another. It is difficult enough when an officer has to answer a complaint that comes from outside the department, but is especially trying when the complaint comes from within. My job (which unfortunately is sometimes misunderstood) is to remain neutral, but also to ensure that the accused officer is afforded a fair and thorough due process proceeding. Now I have to admit, I came on the department when things were handled differently and may I say, better! If an officer had a beef with another officer it was usually settled face to face. If a supervisor had a beef with an officer it was usually handled behind closed doors. Things were less formal but I know it was more effective. There are supervisors, who have long been retired, that are still talked about today for the way they could chew someone out. It was an art form. When the session was over, you checked to see if there was anything left in your trousers for you to sit down on! The refreshing thing was that when it was over, it was over. There weren't any notes or formal documentation. We had supervisors who understood that human beings are going to occasionally mess up. They brought the bad behavior to the employee's attention and they issued a stern and corrective lecture. Most of the time, the behavior never resurfaced. The one who got "chewed out" respected the supervisor for "keeping it in-house" and for not allowing one mess up to ruin a career. I know situations where officers (and now some with rank) owe their careers to the supervisor who handled a matter in that fashion. Now I know times have changed, but we need to get back to treating people better. That starts in-house. Our ever-growing manual instructs us that "employees shall report any criminal violations of law or serious acts of misconduct involving any employee performing department duties that they witness in the manner directed in other sections of the manual." (SPD Manual 5.001 VII, sec 11). I am not advocating or condoning that anyone should overlook criminal activity or serious acts of misconduct, but I do think we all need to examine what is meant by "serious acts of misconduct." This is where discretion becomes important. If there is any doubt about whether the incident is a "serious act of misconduct," why not approach the individual directly? You may find out some details that will explain the entire situation. Lately, we are all too quick to run to the OPA with things that could have and should have been addressed face to face. Once OPA is involved, everything becomes formal. Do we want to see the behavior corrected or do we want to "get someone in trouble?" I know as an officer I would get frustrated when neighbors called 911 to file reports on each other over silly squabbles that should have been handled face to face as adults. As for supervisors, I also get frustrated when I see things forwarded to OPA that should have been dealt with at the workplace. Being a supervisor means dealing with human beings who will at times make stupid mistakes. Earn the big bucks and handle it yourself! Nowhere in the manual does it require a supervisor to send every allegation of misconduct to the OPA. A first line supervisor can correct behavior better than anything that comes down from OPA after a six month investigation. My old Traffic Sergeant would often say to our squad, "I can't make you do it, but I can make you wish you had." He got his message across loud and clear. I would also advise supervisors that before they send something to OPA, they check their memory bank. If everything that you ever did wrong was formally "written up" and sent up the chain, you probably wouldn't be here or at least you wouldn't be a supervisor. If you have been on over 15 yrs and you can't recall any of those situations, I'd advise you to have coffee with some of the people who worked around you "back in the day." I bet they could refresh your memory.

OPA and the department leaders are not off the hook on this one either. The Mayor's panel on police accountability made 29 recommendations that got a lot of attention last year. Well OPA and the brass need to pull it out again and read recommendation #5. It says: "The OPA should focus its

investigative resources on SERIOUS CASES OF MISCONDUCT. The OPA should identify complaints of a less serious nature as early as possible and encourage the resolution of these complaints through mediation." Again there is that phrase, "serious cases of misconduct." I wonder why all of the other recommendations have been quickly implemented, but this one doesn't get any attention. This "gotcha" and "report everything" mentality is hurting this department and it has to stop! Two sayings to keep in mind: 1. "If you live in a glass house you shouldn't throw stones." 2. "What goes around comes around."

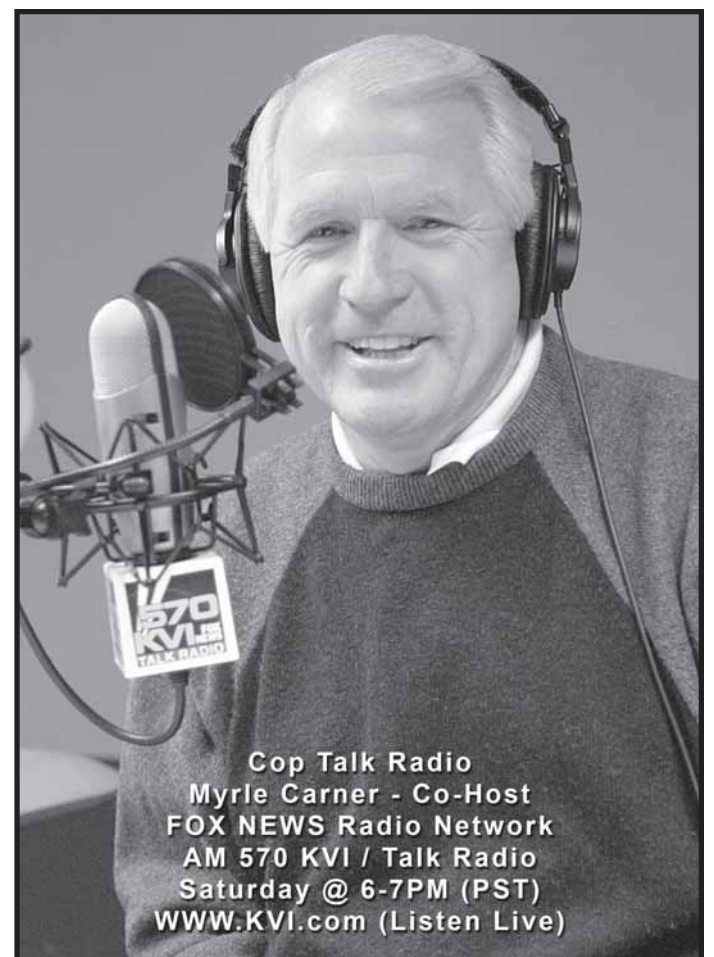
The state and national elections are now behind us and the victors will now face the reality that the "good news is that they won and the bad news is that they won." There were many promises made and now comes time to follow through on those promises. Next year, we will have the mayor and city council elections. This will be a very important election for local politics. Please consider getting more involved with the SPOG PAC activities as outlined in another article this month.

Speaking of getting more involved...please consider running for a board position with SPOG. The reason that SPOG has endured since 1952 and continues to get stronger is because officers have made the decision to roll up their sleeves and get involved. The term of office for the board is only two years. We need officers to bring fresh ideas so that the organization will continue to become stronger. Every squad has someone who sits around at coffee and is very "vocal." Encourage them to bring those ideas to SPOG by becoming part of the board of directors. The deadline is December 17th.

Lastly, as the year winds to a close I'd like to ask everyone to reflect on what is truly important. We have all heard the clichés, but we need to truly reflect on them. Think of how much better the department would become if everyone did the following:

1. Make it a point each day to brighten another's day.
2. Treat each other the way you want to be treated.
3. Show some empathy to each other.
4. Family comes first!
5. Never take yourself too seriously.

Remember those in our SPD family who have had a rough year or who have lost a loved one. Keep in mind that none of us are perfect and our hope rests in the fact that we can all be forgiven. After all, that is the reason for the season! I wish all of you a very Merry Christmas!



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Positions open are: Sergeant-at-Arms, Position 1, Position 3, Position 5, Position 7, and Position 9.

Nominations open on **November 19th at 0830** and end on **December 17th at 1630**. Call the Guild Office for more information 206-767-1150

NOMINATIONS OPEN

Sergeant-at-Arms and Odd Board Positions
Nominations Open November 19th at 0830 Hours
Nominations Close December 17th at 1630 Hours

Photo and 250 word message must be submitted by close of nominations
Contact the Guild at 206-767-1150 for more information

SEATTLE POLICE OFFICERS' GUILD BOARD OF DIRECTORS NOMINATION FORM

Date _____

We, the undersigned, nominate _____ for the position of _____ (Position #1, etc.) of the Seattle Police Officers' Guild.

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____
7. _____
8. _____
9. _____
10. _____

Nominee Signature _____

2008 GRAM Christmas Party

Date: Saturday, December 13th

Time: 1200 to 1600 Hours

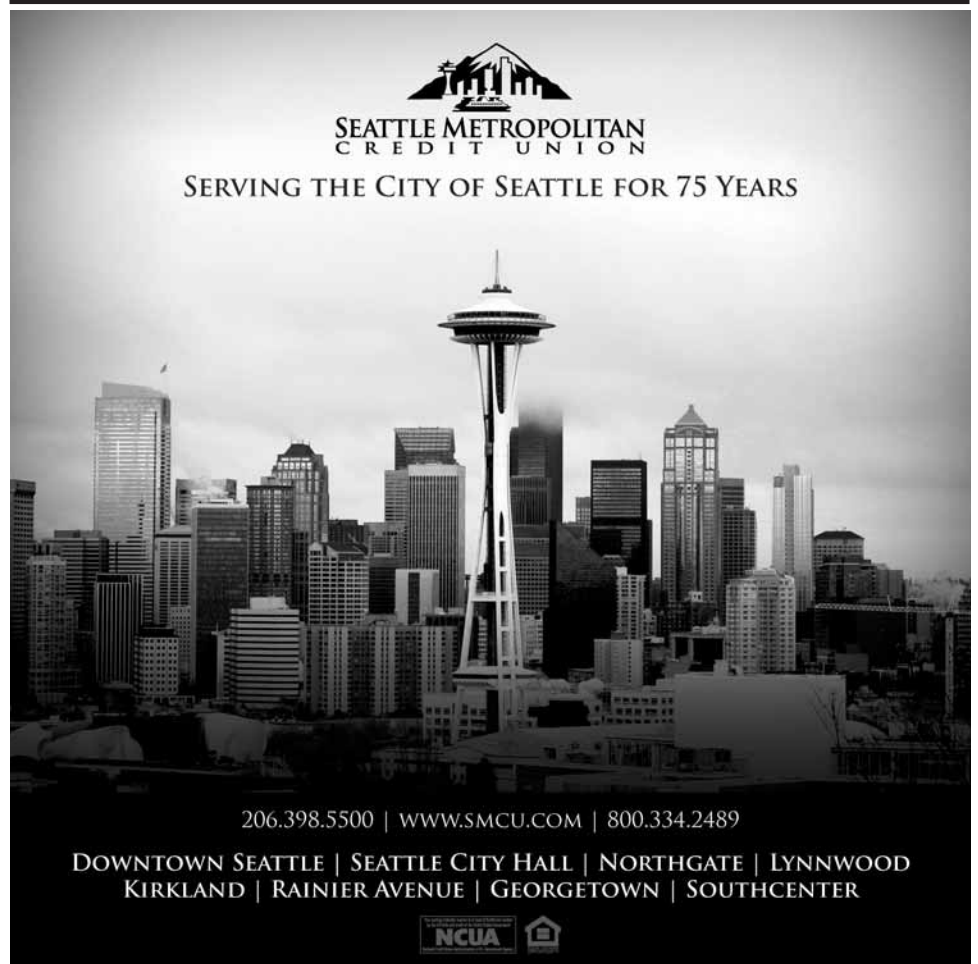
Location: SPD Pavilion at Police Range

Schedule of Events:

Arts and Crafts; A Magician; A Clown; A Blow-Up Bouncer; Two Face Painters; Child ID Booth; and the arrival of Santa from the North Pole

Santa's helpers needed for: Stocking Stuffer Party on Thursday, December 11th at 1700 hours at the SPD Pavilion; And day of the event in staffing the various booths. Also needed is yummy cookies for the day of the event.

Contact Mary Ann Unger via department email for more information regarding this event.



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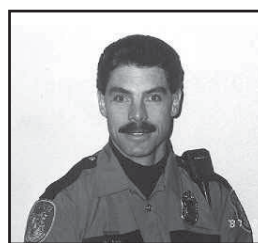
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Vice President's Message

Continued from Page 1

into service quickly, he grabs his gear and heads straight out of roll call without introducing himself to the sergeant who conducted roll call. Being a conscientious young officer who obviously received world-class training from our Field Training Unit, he knew what sector he was assigned to and quickly found out which district was empty for the night. He then logged into service and handled calls all night. At the end of his shift, he logged out of service and went home. The second night, the same thing happened. He sat anonymously in roll call, logged into service, handled calls, logged out of service and went home. Finally, on the young officer's third night at work, his actual sergeant was in roll call. However, the notice that the officer was assigned to this sergeant was sent via e-mail on the sergeant's first night off. As a result, the sergeant still had no idea that the new face in his roll call was assigned to him. Fortunately, as roll call concluded, the sergeant asked the new officer who his FTO was. The officer said matter of factly that he was no longer a student officer and was permanently assigned, not only to the watch but to that sergeant as well. The sergeant looked at the rookie and said, "You gotta be kidding!" He replied, "Nope, I'm not kidding. I've been working here for three days now and nobody has called my name yet!" Shortly after roll call, the errant e-mail that verified the kid's story was found. So let's review, the youngster worked completely unsupervised for two days because somebody thought it would be a good idea to have sergeants work completely different schedules from their squad. All this in the era of crushing oversight and scrutiny somebody thought it was smart to completely divorce sergeants from their squads. Brilliant! All I can say is it's a good thing the sergeant wasn't on vacation for a couple of weeks.

Remember earlier in the year when we were all being indoctrinated into the NPP mind set? We were told that one of the goals of NPP was to give officers a sense of ownership of their district. The theory being that having a sense of "ownership" would make officers and sergeants more efficient and effective due to the fact that they would feel directly responsible for their area of assignment. Calls would be handled more quickly, crime trends would be more readily identified and dealt with while crime stats and response times would plummet.

If we compare the system that we left behind to the current NPP model we will get a good idea of how this works (or doesn't work).

Then: Last year officers knew the exact boundaries of their districts and sectors and could recite same.

Now: Presently, due to convoluted district boundaries, officers don't have a clue beyond a general neighborhood area as to where they are assigned.

Question: So how does not being able to identify your district boundaries give anyone a sense of "ownership"?

Answer: It doesn't!

Then: Last year officers typically didn't share their district with any other officers.

Now: There are at least three officers assigned to each district but frequently never more than two on any given shift.

Question: Sharing responsibility diminishes any sense of accountability. So how does sharing responsibility equally with a squad mate give anyone a sense of "ownership"?

Answer: It doesn't!

Then: Last year officers could count on working the same district day in and day out. Officers referred to their assigned area as "their district" and frequently stayed in that assignment for years.

Now: This year officers are bounced around to plug staffing holes on a regular basis.

Question: So how does regularly moving officers around give them any sense of "ownership"?

Answer: It doesn't!

Conclusion: Why do I feel like I've got a first class ticket on the USS Titanic and the captain just announced that they are so confident in the ship's ability to stay afloat that they left all the life jackets sitting on the dock?

Kudos go to Chief Kerlikowske, Deputy Chief Diaz and Deputy Chief Kimerer regarding the new Glocks. Once Mike Severance clearly identified the problem and a remedy was in place, money was secured for the purchase and we had our new sidearm's in-hand in record time. Thank you to everyone involved with making our new Glocks a reality. And a big thank you to our range staff as I know this created a lot of extra work for them.

I attended the annual Seattle Police Foundation awards banquet again this year. This event just gets bigger and better every year. If you haven't attended before, make the effort next year. It's a good time to get together with old friends and to rub elbows with the rich and powerful. It's also a great opportunity to change our image with some of our detractors as we

can't help but put our best foot forward at one of these events. Once again, SPD had a banner year for heroics and excellence. Congratulations to all of the award winners!

I just completed Street Skills 2008. I was really impressed with how much our guys in training accomplish on a shoestring budget. Lets see, first we had the virtual chemical agent (OC/pepper spray) training. What is that you ask? Well, due to budget constraints, we weren't allowed to train with all of the department's OC canisters. This resulted in our class being asked to stand on the 15-yard line and visualize what it would be like to fire OC from that distance. We then moved to the 9-yard line and visualized the same exercise. Following the OC training, we spent some time actually shooting our guns during qualifications. Maybe next year we can "visualize" qualifying! And while we're at it, I'd like to visualize my DUI refresher training. We then moved to the covered picnic area at the range, where the training unit had hung tarps to protect us from the biting wind and driving rain. The picnic shelter was divided into two classrooms by the tarps, which worked surprisingly well. We then shivered through several hours worth of training inside these makeshift classrooms, which were lit by a single 60-watt bulb. If we needed to read anything we had to use our flashlights. So what's next? Using blue tarps as office dividers and Dixie cups on a string as portable radios? (To the guys in the Training Unit: Good job with what you had to work with.)

This past Nov. 3rd, I attended a pre-election rally for Dino Rossi in Issaquah. Even though they really packed the house, SPOG was the most obvious group represented there with at least 30 of our members present. Although our candidate eventually lost, SPOG gained considerable stature in the political

arena because many of the same organizers in the Republican Party will still be around for the next election cycle. And as I've discovered, candidates not only like to have our endorsement, they really like having our members show up for campaign events. And believe me, the organizers in the Gregoire camp were taking notice as well. Most candidates would kill for our level of involvement. Thank you to all of our members who turned out for the event. And to all of our members who were upset with our Rossi endorsement, all I can say is please remember that our endorsements are based on not only research of a candidate's record and their stand on law enforcement related issues, but also on our interview of them. In this particular race, Governor Gregoire refused our invitation to come and address the Political Action Committee and flat out stated that she wasn't seeking our endorsement. As such, looking at her record, stand on law enforcement issues and refusal to address our committee, our decision was pretty easy.

Before I wrap this up, I'd like to quash a rumor that SPOG has "signed off" on the Step Compression issue. Nothing could be further from the truth. We are still in the negotiation process and we all know how long that takes with the City of Seattle. At our membership's request, SPOG unfroze this grievance at the November Joint Labor Management Committee meeting. We will proceed on toward arbitration (with negotiations continuing during this process). My only advice is to be patient and don't buy into the rumor mill. Always feel free to phone/e-mail SPOG for the true scoop on what's happening.

So, with that in mind, stick together, always back each other's play and we will always be victorious.

Morris K. Fortmann, Jr. Attorney at law

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2008... A Year of Change in Review

By Officer Clayton Powell, South Precinct

As I sit in CeePee's Corner during roll call, contemplating the rapidity of the year's approaching end, I take time to reflect on the accomplishments and strides we have made as a membership. We survived an intense contract issue in which we had to endure delay after delay of false hope and insulting behavior by the management of the city we serve. To our benefit, we eventually received the recognition we deserve as the premier police department in the region. The contract was not accomplished without some very difficult sessions attended by our Guild staff sitting through meeting after meeting with the city and members of management.

Several of our members have been, and are still going through, scrutiny by the OPA...that system put in place to review complaints by citizens that would not dare do our jobs. The office of critics that know not what we officers sacrifice on a daily basis, but are quick to judge the split second decisions we are forced to make. "Until you walk in my boots and step in the S**t I step in, don't tell me how bad I smell". Ironically, very few of them, to my knowledge, have ever worn the badge and stood on the line of defense against the criminally minded. We survived without loss, an all too real threat of faulty equipment that could have cost any of our members his/her life due to a failure to function as intended. The motivation of the city to come to term with the potential loss (perhaps of one of our officers or the threat of a lawsuit) came not without delay, but nonetheless, it came. I encourage those in the membership, especially those newer members, who do not attend Guild meetings on a regular basis, to come out and "break bread". With the number of members we have, there is no reason we should not have a packed house every last Wednesday of the month.

I frequently read the flyers that sprinkle the various locations in and around the city that encourage potential applicants to join the ranks of the Seattle Police Department. I happened across one such flyer recently in the lobby of the South Precinct. The cover reads "A Job like No Other in a City like No Other" (sound familiar?) Opening the cover and seeing some of our finest used as advertising tools, I began to read. Under the heading "Choosing the SPD", I made it to paragraph two before my bottom jaw dropped and a huge question mark loomed in my mind. The paragraph boasted having about 2,000 employees. This statement would lead the reader, and potential applicant, to believe the department has 2,000 sworn members, as it does not differentiate between sworn and civilian positions. The flyer is an advertisement for Police employment only, with no mention of civilian positions. Reading further, the last line in the paragraph

states, verbatim, "Officer Safety is also one of our highest priorities, and we strive to provide the best training and equipment available in the profession" (your gun may be old, but it's some of the best equipment in the profession). Stunned at this declaration, I had to take a minute to make sure I was standing in the same building. Perhaps this flyer was written prior to the reconfiguring of squads to include "in-squad relief" and affectively remove one third of the available resources from the on duty patrol staffing. The statement, "Seattle is an attractive city to work in and a great place to call home", is highlighted in red. I must agree, this is an attractive city, but in order to call it home I would have to make three times the salary I currently make. These are not only misleading statements (to a potential applicant) but also gross violations of a standard the applicant is required to possess...honesty. Another publication in the same lobby, "The Seattle Police Department Report to The Community", offered its own version of misleading and contradicting information. It reports the city having the lowest crime rate in forty years. The author failed to mention the alarming rate of deaths amongst the city's youth. I fail to see the benefit of this declaration if the city also recorded the highest number of juvenile homicides in recent memory. What good is a positive statement if it is eliminated by a negative stat? The parents of those lost lives would probably take offense to a false positive statement made to appease a few by someone with a political agenda. Such contradictions resonate each time I am approached by someone asking about the job and how I like doing it. I never fail to give an honest response, free of political correctness.

We have seen policies change, procedures rearranged, and new systems implemented that were intended to make us more affective at completing our task - enforcing the law. I chose to label it as, 'facilitators of factual information of crimes committed by one person against another'. I recall the day I sat in roll call and listened as Sarge read what I thought was going to be yet another boring directive. A directive that really did little or nothing to affect how I performed my duties, but left me subjected to more of the criticism I had come to expect. Imagine the stunned and surprising expression that fell upon my face as the long standing mandatory uniform policy was put to rest. The very same uniform policy that plagued many of us because it implied that we all have the exact same core body temperature and all suffer from heat and cold on the exact same day each and every year. I don't miss it at all and its' termination was long overdue. I was, if you can envision it, speechless and unable to express my joy. To whoever was directly responsible for

ending that irritating policy, I say "thank you for giving me one less policy to violate". I admit I voluntarily overlooked it many times because the first day of May is not warm enough for me to slip into short sleeves. Imagine me (those who know me know how easily I get chilly) wearing short sleeves on the first day of May on second watch, let alone on chilly evenings during third watch hours. Conversely, there are those who are perfectly comfortable wearing short sleeves on a frigid night in January. Such brave souls you are. We have been trained to make life or death decisions in a matter of seconds while on duty. Now we can also take a few seconds to decide whether to wear long or short sleeves while making those difficult life or death decisions. Furthermore, I have no recollection of a complainant or victim on a call refusing my services because it was May 5th, and I was wearing long sleeves. I feel like a real adult now.

I wish I could make such positive remarks about ALL of the newly implemented policies and procedures we are now subjected to. It's no big secret at the South Precinct, so I will reveal it to the rest of you now...I HATE SPIDER!!! I am certain I am not alone. What does SPIDER stand for anyway...? "Simply Put I Despise Every Report"? Rarely have I attempted to utilize such a "non-user-friendly" program. Not that I am a computer genius, but DAMN! It is a distinct disadvantage to the productivity of the simple report some of us recall completing in the time it now takes to log on to the system. I recall the days of the ten minute warrant arrest report. That report now takes substantially longer to complete, and that ten minutes is now how long it takes to input your name, serial number, and elongated unit number during the log on process. I have, however, made a few new friends: "alt X", "enter", and "exit". Once I became more familiar with them, Mr SPIDER became less of a hemorrhoid to my report writing experience. I understand that saying something positive should immediately follow a negative comment. Therefore, I will say this, "It's nice to forego scribbling my signature on every single report I complete". A couple of depressions of the enter button, and one more log-on to the MDT, and off the report goes, to be reviewed by a Sergeant who will call me in to correct my "IBR" (Irritating Bothersome Repulsive) errors. Total report time for what was once a ten minute warrant arrest report, one hour fifteen minutes. If that is productivity at its best, I fail to see it. I hear there is a new computer system on the horizon, so I will reserve further comment for that time.

As I look back on this year, I am grateful to be gainfully employed. The economy suffered as it has not in the lifetime of some whose eyes will grace this issue. The stock market

fell to record one-day lows and gas prices soared to new mountainous highs. How many of us recall the price of a gallon of gas when we initially obtained a driver's license? Those under 35 are not invited to respond. I won't say exactly how much it was when I passed, proudly on the first attempt, that road test that allowed me to become a licensed user of the nation's roadways, but it was much less than one dollar per gallon. Thankfully, at the present time, the depth at which I must dig into my wallet is no longer at the point of taking out a short term loan to fill my tank. Miraculously, the digits at the pumps are falling, almost daily, and I can afford to tend to the empty space in my belly as well as the cavernous space in my vehicle. I no longer have a need to pick up an off-duty job just to make my way up and down the interstate.

My reflections on the year of '08 also include a plate of "crow". Earlier in the pre-contract settling days, some of our members chose to depart for what they were lead to believe would be greener pastures and smoother waters. Consequently, the pastures were filled with "cow pie" and the waters became murky and shark infested. Promises implied and eventually denied during the interview process did not yield the anticipated gains. One such report of disappointment also included a comment of how the other department lacked the closeness and camaraderie among its officers that they came to enjoy while here at SPD. That goes to prove that going through hardships is easier if you have friends standing by you and going through it also. Where do I obtain my knowledge? I attended one of those "come join us" interviews and left not convinced that leaving (the then dire straights) would benefit my long term goal of retiring to a warmer location on this globe of Earth. It was interesting reviewing my resume after such a long interim. The decisions apparently did not pan out as well as hoped and letters requesting re-instatements have come a flooding. Interesting it will be to see if those who left, and got a mouthful of sour as opposed as to a bite of sweet, will return to "The City Like no Other".

As the clock ticks away on yet another year of exciting police work filled with good times and bad, highs and lows, let us be thankful for the friendships we have forged. I would be lying if I said I could have gotten thus far void of long term friendships, both on and off the job. I wish you much happiness during the holidays and hopefully 2009 will continue to bring exciting and profitable changes.

So now, for one final time this year from CeePee's Corner, let's all go home safely; by any means necessary; and remember to put family first!

This Message Will Self Destruct... Or You Will

By Officer Adam Thorp, South Precinct

I hate writing. In college, my English professors would always casually assign a ten-page essay on something "due tomorrow" as if their class were the only thing happening in my life. So why am I writing now? Well to be honest, I've been writing bits of this article in my head for a couple of months and am finally sitting down to put it to paper. Just like cleaning out the garage, I have been putting this off over and over. I have wanted to write about something that affects every one of us to some degree: taxes. Naw, just kiddin'...life and the stress it causes is the real issue (though taxes fit right in to the real topic I suppose).

Since Christmas Eve, 2005, my son, my father, my grandmother and grandfather have all passed away. I am 29 years old and have, what I would argue, is a disproportionate amount of experience in certain types of stress. In fact, I made more retro pay off funeral leave than vacation pay. I know I am but one of over 1300 people on this department who can share stories of stress. The stories may encompass different kinds of stress, but the underlying issue is the same: it affects our livelihood. And it seems the old adage of "When it rains, it pours" is very true. Seems to me, I stub my little toe, or lose my car keys only on days where I just had a bad day at work, or I find out my salary isn't what I was told it would be (jab jab). The point I am going to attempt to make here is what to do when it rains.

There have been a lot of changes on this department over the last few years, particularly for patrol officers. I am by no means a long term employee, but I have already seen a lot. I have participated in conversations about the squads being split up, SPIDER, some sergeant is a putz, the guild doesn't care about this or that, or how we get beefed for some non-issue. I realized that at the end of the day, despite our best complaining voices, the only thing that ever changes is our blood pressure. Do you really want to give your health to SPIDER? How about that sergeant? Or perhaps, you want to get all worked up because some drunk

criminal called you short? (For the record, I am less than 5'9") Is it really going to change anything useful? Is the brass going to dump SPIDER because we don't like it? My guess is no. So again, the only thing that's going to change is your health. In the end, you're going to have to write that SPIDER report. Now, I am not saying, just roll over to everything and say, "Please sir, may I have another?" but I am saying pick your battles.

There is just too much garbage life throws at us to get pissed off about something we don't have the power to change. This is not meant to be a political piece, but by now we have a new president, though as I write this, he is yet to be elected. If I don't like the person voted in, can I throw him out? Nope. So, why get all pissed off about it?

I don't know what you do to de-stress, but I hope it is not something self-destructive. I hope you don't go looking for calm at the bottom of the 10th beer, or in the arms of a girlfriend when your wife and kids are at home. If you do, don't stress, just *want* to change. I personally find calm in three places: church, the gym, and buried under my children as I wrestle with them. Now, this works for me, but it won't necessarily work for you. So you need to find out what does. I realize for some, the "complaining" is stress management, but my focus is on unhealthy stress management. As we all have probably heard, cops, as a group, do not live long after retirement. Not that our retirement account is worth much these days, but we still worked hard for that money. Live to enjoy it. Many things will always piss us off. Most of these we cannot change. Again, pick your battles. Within the scope of department policy, run your career the way you see fit, not the way someone else runs his or hers. Find a non-destructive outlet for your family's sake, your friend's sake, my sake, but most importantly, for your sake. You owe it to yourself. Now get out there and clean the garage. ☺

Rising to New Heights

47th Annual International Association of Women Police (IAWP) Conference

Seattle, Septembr 20-24, 2009

By Sergeant Deb Nicholson, Board Position #9

I am the co-director for the upcoming IAWP conference along with Deputy Beth Lavin, KCSO. I would like to invite all of our membership to check out this exciting training opportunity! It is open to all active and retired officers, their companions and civilians working in law enforcement. The conference is being held at the Westin Hotel in downtown Seattle. Our website has detailed information about the conference and is updated on a regular basis, www.seattle2009.org. Please visit our website and see what exciting things will be going on during that week.

I would like to introduce you to the I.A.W.P. in this article. It is an organization dedicated to the promotion and advancement of the law enforcement profession. IAWP membership has representation from approximately 45 countries worldwide. Visit www.IAWP.org on line. The IAWP originally was founded in 1915, and has been holding yearly training conferences since 1962. Its mission is to educate female police officers from all over the world and provide training, which would otherwise not be available. It carries out this mission by having a yearly conference, held in a different city every year. The IAWP Foundation was founded in 2002 to support the charitable and training needs of the conference and organization.

The annual IAWP conferences provide a strong network of support and training for women and men in law enforcement. They are a forum for research conducted by universities and other professional organizations. Experts from all fields of criminal justice are brought together to share views and information. This provides

U.S. and international delegates with an opportunity to broaden their police knowledge in operations, leadership, and personal development through workshops and lectures. In addition, the conferences provide an international venue for awards and recognition of women peace officers in the areas of leadership, community service, valor, mentoring, excellence in performance and lifelong commitment to advancement of the policing profession.

The IAWP also publishes the Women Police magazine four times a year, which includes articles on law enforcement, issues around the world and highlights information on activities that IAWP members and affiliate organizations are involved in. They also sponsor the International Scholarship Award, which provides funding for a female police officer from outside North America, who has made significant contribution to policing, to

Attend the annual training conference. There is an "adopt-a-member" program, which provides for officers from less fortunate countries to maintain membership in IAWP. IAWP also works toward ensuring equal opportunities for women police.

The IAWP is a multi-faceted organization that is supportive of law enforcement in a variety of forums. The training provided is first rate and the networking is amazing. I am a lifetime member of the IAWP and have benefited from attending many of the conferences. Please take the time to check out the International Association of Women Police. Remember Seattle 2009!

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Important Date

SPOG Membership Meeting
Wednesday, December 17th
at 2000 hours

Complimentary Dinner All Members Welcome



Drill Team Celebrates 60 Years!



By Officer Mike Henry, Motors

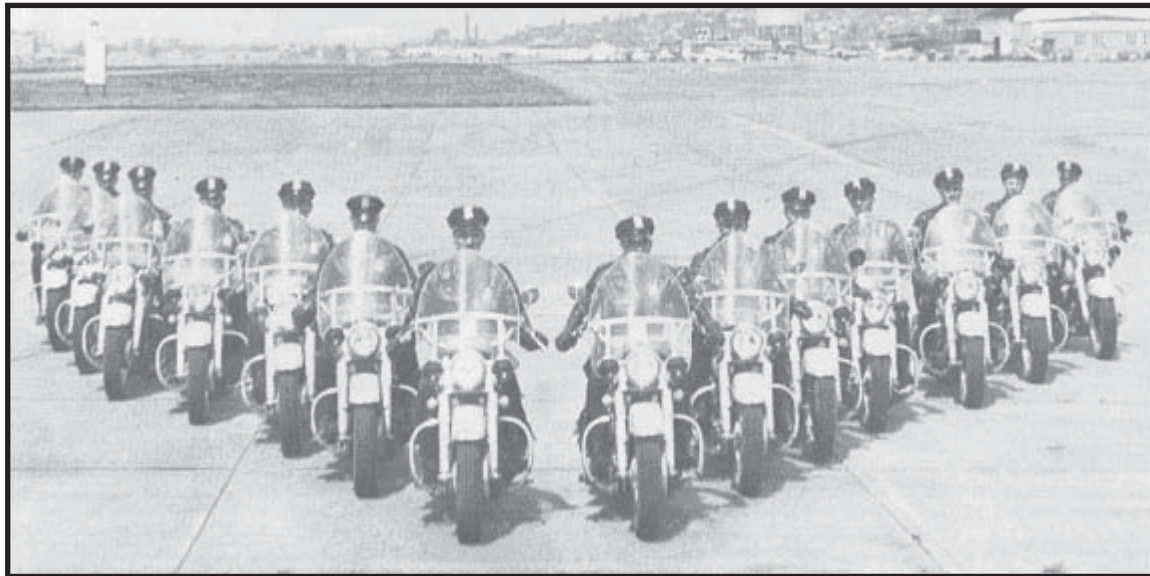
The Seattle Police Motorcycle Drill Team had its origin in 1949 with an idea conceived by Captain Shaughnessy for escorting parades in Seattle. There were two formations used, the "Big V" and "Column of Twos." All "Solo Officers" were required to participate.

Officers Bill Magrileo and Roy Moran began working on adapting maneuvers, which could be performed on a motorcycle. Right from the beginning, slow intricate maneuvers based on precision riding were emphasized.

In 1951, Seattle's Seafair celebration found its beginning. Community parades, the Grand Seafair Parade, the Torchlight Parade and the Hydroplane races were to take place that summer. Captain Shaughnessy asked for a corps of volunteers to form a Motorcycle Unit, which would be able to assist Seafair and to ride in the parades as a representative of the Police Department during this new summer celebration. Eighteen officers volunteered and the Drill Team was born.

Their performance in Seattle's first Seafair celebration was smash hit! Invitations began coming in from all over the region requesting the Drill Team to perform. In 1963, the Drill Team began an association with the Vancouver, B.C. Police Motorcycle Drill Team. That association continues today with both teams performing in parades together in Seattle and Vancouver over the past 46 years.

The '70s ushered in the 30th anniversary of the Drill Team and a transition from the Harley Davidson motorcycle to



Kawasaki motorcycle, which according to parade fans, did not have the same "roar of thunder" coming down the parade route.

The Drill Team Talent Show had its origin in the early '80s, thanks to the Drill Master at that time, Officer Tom Murphy. It still remains the team's only fund raising event. This year the show will be held on Friday, March 20, 2009 at the Seattle Police Range Pavilion. This event attracts over 600 people. All who attend are treated to dinner, dancing, talent acts and a raffle featuring items and services donated by supporters. All funds raised are returned to the community through performances.

Through the '70s and '80s, the Drill Team gained an international reputation. The Drill Team appeared in parades all over the Western United States and Canada, including the Desert Circus Parade in palm Springs, California, the Stampede Parade in Calgary, Alberta, the Pacific National Exhibition parade in Vancouver, B.C. and the Rose Festival Parade in Portland, Oregon. During this period, the Drill Team also received invitations to perform at the Indianapolis 500, Puerto Vallarta and Mazatlan, Mexico, St.

Petersburg, Florida, San Francisco, Hawaii and many other locations.

1991 brought the Drill Team to Washington D.C., where they were invited to perform in the National Law Enforcement Memorial Dedication Parade and they also attended the press conference in the Rose Garden at the White House.

During the '90s the Drill Team also appeared in parades in Reno and Las Vegas, Nevada.

The '90s also brought transition to the motorcycle. The color was changed from the unique "Seattle Blue" to the traditional "Black and White" color scheme.

The "New Millennium" brought many new members to the current Drill Team of today. 2003 delighted the parade fans as the "thunder returned" to the parade route with the return of the Harley Davidson Road King motorcycle.

2009 marks the 60th anniversary of the Seattle Police Motorcycle Drill Team. The current Drill Team is a group of dedicated professionals with an unwavering commitment to excellence. They proudly represent the City of Seattle and its citizens by

performing their precision maneuvers in parades and shows throughout the Pacific Northwest and Canada.

The Team is administrated just as it was 60 years ago. The Drill Master is the overall team leader and is responsible for the team's activities. A Traffic Sergeant, Lieutenant and Captain are also members of the team. Assignment to the Drill Team is open to all Seattle Police Motorcycle Officers and selection is based on a skills course competition and a willingness to invest the extra time required to train and perform.

Even today, many of the drills performed are the original maneuvers put together back in 1949. The show season begins in May and runs through the end of September. The Drill Team makes 25-30 appearances during this time including schools, parades and Seafair events.

The Drill Team Mission is to serve as role models to inspire the young men and women of our communities and to act as goodwill ambassadors for the Seattle Police Department and the City of Seattle.

The Drill Team looks forward to seeing you at the "2009 talent Show" and they hope to see you at one of their many performances during the 2009 season.

Special note for Drill Team Alumni: The 60th Anniversary Alumni Banquet will be held in conjunction with team's first performance of 2009 at the Apple Blossom Parade in Wenatchee, WA on May 2, 2009. The banquet and lodging will be in Leavenworth, WA. All Drill Team Alumni are invited to attend. For more information please contact the Drill Master, John Bernasconi at 206 300-4232.



SPD Motorcycle Drill Team circa 1960



2008 SPD Motorcycle Drill Team



SPD Motorcycle Drill Team circa 1980 in Canada

SPOG PAC At Work

By Guardian Staff

The Seattle Police Officer's Guild, through the recommendation of the Political Action Committee, endorsed a total of 10 candidates in the recent general election. Seven out of our ten endorsed candidates were victorious! The days of SPOG only endorsing losing candidates or only endorsing the incumbents are over! The political action committee takes their job seriously and makes informed recommendations to the full board of directors. The SPOG board examines the committee recommendations and has made tough choices that the voters obviously agree with. 2009 will be a busy year for the SPOG political activities. The Mayor and several city council positions are open for election. These local races are why we formed a PAC Fund. These local races DIRECTLY influence your life through wages and working conditions. Please consider doing two things: 1. If you have not yet signed up for the PAC Fund, please do so. Your contribution will help SPOG support those candidates who support us and oppose those candidates who are NOT a friend of public safety. 2. Get involved with the PAC Committee. You do not have to be a board member to join the committee. You will be able to help formulate the questionnaire for candidates and also to join in the face to face interview of these candidates. Your participation will assist SPOG in making the right decision on endorsement and that will hopefully improve your working conditions. Please return the completed form to the SPOG office: 2949 4th Ave S, Seattle, WA 98134.

Non-Employee Form

**SUPPORT THE SEATTLE POLICE OFFICERS' GUILD
POLITICAL ACTION COMMITTEE**

The following contribution is made payable to the Seattle Police Officers' Guild Political Action Committee and is being forwarded to the Seattle Police Officers' Guild Political Action Fund Chairman held at SPOG, 2949 4th Avenue, S.; Seattle, WA 98134.

This contribution is voluntary and with the understanding that the SPOG Political Action Committee will use this money to make political contributions and expenditures in connection with state and local elections. I understand that this deduction is not tax deductible. All contributions will be subject to Washington State public disclosure laws.

Name: _____

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Contribution: \$ _____ Signature: _____

Date: _____

Employee Form

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SEATTLE POLICE OFFICERS' GUILD**

Employer: *Seattle Police Department*

I hereby authorize my Employer to deduct the amount indicated each month from my paycheck and forward this amount to the Seattle Police Officers' Guild Political Action Fund Chairman held at SPOG, 2949 4th Ave S, Seattle, WA 98134.

This authorization is signed voluntarily and with the understanding that the SPOG Political Action Committee will use this money to make political contributions and expenditures in connection with state and local elections.

I understand this deduction will remain in effect until revoked. I understand that "No employer or labor organization may discriminate against an officer or employee in the terms or conditions of employment for (i) failure to contribute to, (ii) the failure in any way to support or oppose, or (iii) in any way supporting or opposing a candidate, ballot proposition, political party or political committee."

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Employee No. _____
(eight-digit #)

Deduction Amount (per month):

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Officer of the Month

By Detective Christopher Hall, False Alarm Unit

The SPOG Officer of the Month for November 2008 is Camilo Depina of the West Precinct, as nominated by Lieutenant Sim Tamayo and Officer Renee Miller for his actions, while off-duty, at the scene of a suicidal woman on the Aurora Bridge.

On 11-06-2008 at 0509 hours a citizen called 911 reporting that a female standing at the railing on the Aurora Bridge looking over the ledge.

At the same time, Officer Depina was on his way home after a third-watch shift when he passed the female, who was still on the inside of the railing. He felt something was wrong so he turned around. By the time he had made it back to her location she had stepped over the railing. Officer Depina stopped his vehicle, got out and contacted the woman.

Officer Depina began to talk to her before on-duty officers arrived. Utilizing his CIT skills, Officer Depina talked with her for almost an hour, in the pouring rain, before he was able to get her to agree to come back over the railing. He only had his jacket to protect him from the cold, wind and rain while talking to her.

There were several times that it appeared she was going to jump and he was able to get her to focus back on him and continue to talk to him. During that hour, it was clear the woman contemplated both coming back over the rail and was leaning toward jumping. Officer Depina was able to read her very well and bring her focus back to him and to work on getting her back over.

Officer Depina did an amazing job, in ugly weather, to recognize the situation and take charge to save this woman from jumping. A senior officer on the scene stated that in his 25+ years of law enforcement he has never seen an officer handle this type of situation as amazingly as Officer Depina.

Officers and supervisors on the scene also stated there was no doubt that the woman would have jumped to her death if not for the intuition, professionalism and dedication to duty displayed by Officer Depina during this event.

As Officer of the Month, Officer Depina has selected the Help the Officer fund as the recipient of the \$250 SMCU donation.

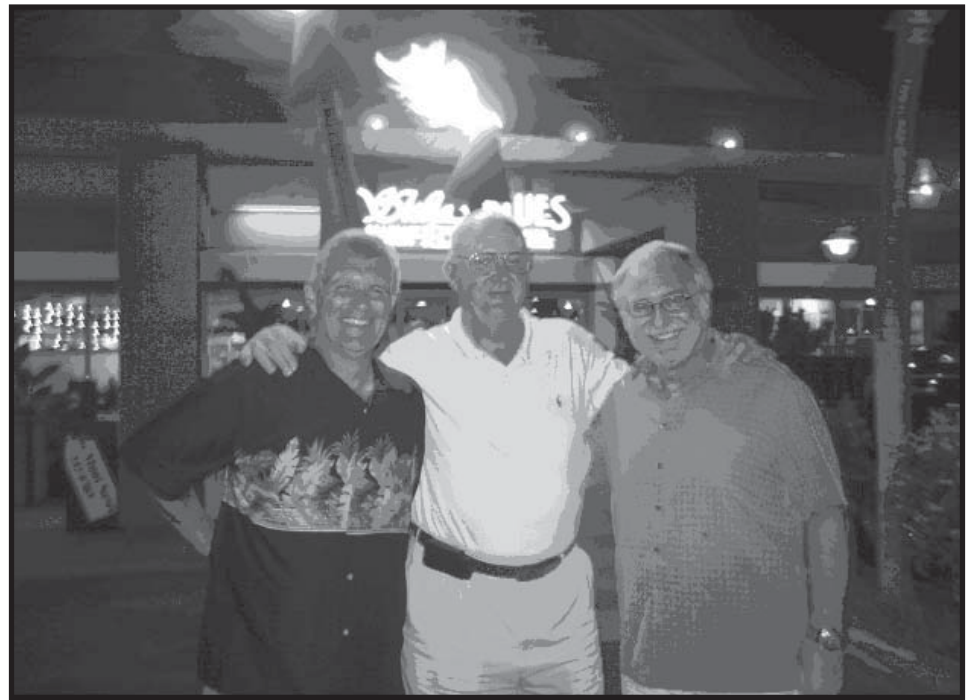


Thank You to Seattle Metropolitan Credit Union for their generous donation of \$250 to the Help the Officer Fund in the name of Officer of the Month, Officer Camilo Depina.
Your contribution is greatly appreciated!

The Guild actively urges its members to write articles for publication in *The Guardian*. The newspaper cannot survive without membership contributions.

All articles and advertisements submitted for publication will be accepted subject to editorial review and changes. The editor shall retain the decision to publish, not publish, or edit an article/advertisement. The editor's decision to publish or not publish an article or advertisement can be appealed to the editorial board, which shall have final and binding decision making authority over the publication of the article/advertisement. Articles appearing under an author's byline do not necessarily represent the opinion of the Seattle Police Officers' Guild.

Aloha!



SPOG Secretary-Treasurer Mike Severance and Sergeant-at-Arms John Abraham "consult" with retired SPOG Vice President Roger Dixon at his home in Kihei, Maui

8th Annual SPD Foster Child Holiday Program November 18 – December 13

Once again the Seattle Police Department is pleased to participate in the DSHS Division of Children and Family Services gift-giving program this holiday season, by sponsoring children in foster care in the City of Seattle. This has become a yearly tradition for the SPD family of employees - making sure these little ones are not forgotten!

This is how SPD employees can help:

Beginning Nov 18 the "Wish List" displays will be set up throughout the Department. Select a child to sponsor by removing the "Wish List" for the child you choose

- Fill out the sign up sheet at the display
- Purchase gifts
- Wrap the gifts (following instructions on the "Wish List")
- Return all gifts to the display area by December 8th.

If you do not wish to sponsor a specific child, we are also happy to accept unwrapped gifts – or gift cards.

~~ SAVE THE DATES ~~

Once again we will need volunteers!

MON-SAT DEC 9-13TH AT THE WORKSHOP

SAT – DEC 13TH – VOLUNTEERS FOR GIFT DELIVERY

More information about volunteering will come out in November when the displays are set up. Watch the NOTICES for details. I have asked Officers Eric Michl and Mich Kane to assist in coordinating the volunteer SPD employees for the deliveries. Sworn and civilian employees can both help in the workshop and with the deliveries. We also welcome spouses of SPD employees, and retired employees – so SAVE THE DATES!

Each year I am touched by the generosity and giving spirits of SPD employees, you have brought many, many, smiles to some unfortunate little ones. These kids need our support! Please show them we care!

If you have any questions regarding this program, contact:

Coordinator / Linda Spromberg

SPD Communications

206-684-8637 or linda.spromberg@seattle.gov

**Do you have an upcoming
IIS Interview?
Contact SPOG now to schedule a rep!**
206-767-1150 or online at www.seattlepoliceguild.org

History Corner

By The Guardian Staff

This is an article reprinted from the December, 1990 "Guardian", written by Christine Lyon.

If Santa Were A Cop

By Christine Lyon

If Santa were a policeman, he'd seem kind of gruff and grouchy, like a crusty old beat sergeant. He'd have no patience for extravagant requests, flimsy excuses or lame arguments. The old blister would see right through a lie and spot insincerity in a second. Nothing would surprise him because he would have seen it all. And if you tried to slide a fast one by him, he'd tell you exactly what to do with the North Pole.

But beneath his furrowed brows, you'd find kindly eyes belying a big heart that was mostly sad because no one would think of asking for the gifts he'd want to give.

If Santa were a policeman, babies would be born only to parents who wanted them. Girls would be given self-esteem and confidence in their abilities to design their own destinies. Boys would be given self-respect and consideration.

Police officers would have the wherewithal to send abused and neglected kids to wholesome places to live, while their parents recover from the infirmities of substance abuse and psychological disfunctions on another planet.

Woman would know their own minds and men their own strength. Old people would be held in high regard. Everyone would be able to read, eat and sleep in warm, dry place. No one would suffer from diseases or go without medical care.

Would-be criminals and ex-cons would be given hair cuts, baths, clean socks and jobs. More politicians would be smart, measured and aware, and fewer reporters would write with forked pens and sensational bias. More judges would be like Barbara Yanick, more prosecutors would be like Greg Jackson and more defense attorneys like Irving Paul.

There would be more opportunity to reflect on good times and less reason for negative thought. Most days would be like a Barney Miller episode. Most nights would be peaceful and dreamless.

Whether or not a crime was solved, a life saved, or a problem resolved in the best way, it would matter a lot if an officer tries his level best. The

effort would be noted and the circumstances understood. There would be no second-guessing. Officers would receive recognition not only for good arrests, but for preventing a situation that would necessitate enforcement actions.

Beyond a reasonable self-discipline, police officers would be gentle with themselves and each other, recognizing that most law enforcement problems are really societal ills whose cure requires more resources than a gun, a badge and a three-minute response time. More politicians and citizens would realize that too, and less criticism would be aimed at law enforcement officials, who are already well aware of their limitations.

Police officers would be hired for, and encouraged to use, good common sense. Their ability to make decisions tailor-made for situations at hand would not be unnecessarily hampered by rigid rules intended to prevent lawsuits or to protect prevailing political concerns. Right would be right and wrong would be wrong. And what people did would mean more than what they said.

Much pride would be claimed for being a police officer in a society that is progressively becoming more complex and challenging and for being effective element in a criminal justice system that has become more exacting and restrictive for law enforcement.

With the passing of each Christmas, everyone would be left confident that things are getting better each year, not worse, and the holidays would truly be a time of celebration.

People would love Santa, despite his rough, sometimes rude manner and rigid ways, toughened by unforgiving critics and an unpredictable working environment. They'd know that when he signed up for the job, a long time ago as a wide-eyed recruit, he did it because he thought public service would be a worthwhile and honorable confession. He still does.

See you next year. God bless all of you Santa's.

This is an article reprinted from the December, 1981 "Guardian", written by Chaplain John Oas.

Gifts that Remain

The toy truck may soon be broken. The doll, as well, will be forgotten. The roses, too, will fade. But certain gifts do remain. Given regularly, they brighten the heart and add special boost to happy living. Here are a few, ready to unwrap and share their joy around.

1. **TIME:** A very precious thing, your prize possession. To take time for each other to give time is simply to give yourself. There is no substitute.
2. **SMILES:** So inexpensive, yet how they warm the heart! They melt tiny icicle of doubt and fear and loneliness. The "already" smile wraps of love around the spirit and seals it with expression. Give away your smiles!
3. **APPRECIATION:** A simple thank you, a kind word – each give assurance of being recognized and accepted. Don't let this gift stay locked within yourself. Let it out – tear away whatever is hindering.
4. **UNDERSTANDING:** A unique and gentle gift. Not all have this to give in great measure. But, strange as it may seem, to give what you have somehow allows room for more. You'll find you can when you want to.

*Your Chaplain,
John K. Oas*



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They Did It Again!

By Bill Berg, SPD Retired

On 11-09-08, SPD Academy Class #52 had their 41st annual reunion. Think about it, every year for the past 41 years they have gotten together to celebrate their Academy graduation in April of 1967. In the beginning we used to get together two or three times a year. All members past and present are invited. Those that left and chose a different occupation still come. In fact one member who returned to St. Paul PD used to fly out every year for the reunion.

Our Academy Class also invites all our academy staff members. One, Ray Carroll who was the academy commander at the time, still comes to our gathering. In fact we cannot remember him not ever showing up. For those of you who do not know Ray Carroll, he rose to the rank of major with SPD, you missed a chance to meet a 'class' gentleman. We as Class #52 were very lucky to have him as our commander.

One of the reasons we are so successful in our reunions is because

of Tom Sutton. Tom lives in such a central location, (Northgate), he has a rec-room with pool table, wet bar, poker tables, and he and his wife Diane make such fabulous food. We as class members appreciate all the hard work they do to accommodate us.

Tom retired on a disability from an injury while on duty on his motorcycle in late 1977. He came back to work in mid-1985; however, he had to go through another SPD academy. At that graduation exercises, Tom and the Chief of Police were surprised to see and hear fellow members of Class #52 cheering Tom on as he walked up to get his graduation certificate. We have something that a lot of others would like but didn't do- friendship and camaraderie.

Class #52 will continue this tradition until the 'last man standing', using a walker or wheel chair, because that is who we are.

Chaplain's Corner

By Chaplain John Oas

For Christmas, Hanukkah, and Kwanza: All the Holidays!

This other night one of my favorite Carols hit my memory. Usually, I don't like carols before Thanksgiving. I tried to cleanse my thoughts. As you can guess, this only made matters worse.

But the particular line "It came upon a midnight clear..." would not leave. Was it midnight? Was it clear? I wound myself into frenzy.

And then, it dawned on me. Whether this was accurate or not, a larger message touched my heart. How many struggles have I had into the night - even to midnight and beyond? How many times had the pain of hurt or misunderstanding plagued me into the night, and beyond?

But the message for me was that Hope came upon a midnight. Purpose came upon a midnight. This birth came at a time in life when things can seem the darkest. This birth has the power to change things from despair to 'not giving up'. This birth can make many things clear...

Wishing you all the best, my dear brothers and sisters of the Seattle Police Department...

PS: I'm headed to Israel again; call me if you're interested at 206.650.9399 (24/7). See you on FACEBOOK...it's free!

My schedule is open for public viewing... <http://calendar.yahoo.com/chaplainjohn2000>



The Keystone Kops and IFA Chapter 17
presents:

**The Spring Event
Crab and Pasta Dinner**
Saturday, February 7th

Only \$30 per person: All the crab you can eat!

6:00pm (social hour), 7:00pm (dinner), 8:00pm (auction)

Seattle Police Athletic Assn. Range
11030 E. Marginal Way S.

Fantastic Door Prizes, Raffle, and Grand Auction Items

Questions about the event? Call Gene Willard, 206-409-3663, Tony Rago, 206-293-2742, Mike Slessman, 206-363-7246 or any Keystone Kop

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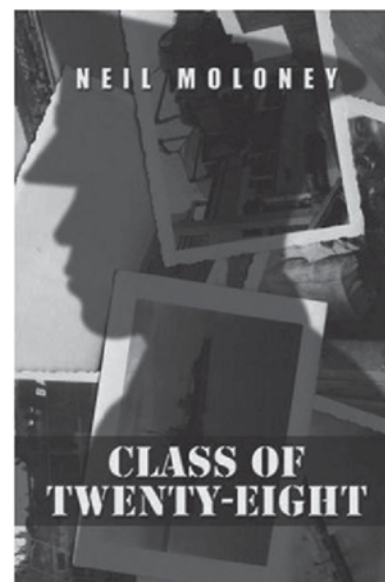
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THOUGHT ABOUT A CHRISTMAS GIFT FOR A FRIEND?



HOW ABOUT AN EXCELLENT NOVEL by Neil Moloney retired SPD? The BOOK--*CLASS OF TWENTY-EIGHT* has received favorable reviews. See: The Guardian: Sept. "07 "A great story about the life and times of some of Seattle's young (police) men before and during WWII." Barnes & Noble: "One of the best historical novels to come out of The Great Depression and WWII." Military Writers of America: "Moloney's book deserves high ratings for his honest portrayal of combat and how men behave in battle." Rated 4/5 stars by Amazon.com, Barnes & Noble & Military Writers of America Association. Available on-line or at your favorite bookstore, **OR** for a dedicated-autographed copy from the author mailed directly to you or a friend anywhere in USA, send a check to author for \$25.00 (Includes \$3.50 S&H) to 20705 SE 293 Street Kent Washington 98042 [For 10% discount, (\$22.50), enclose a copy of this ad].

All *Guardian* submissions are due
by December 15, 2008
to spoguardian@yahoo.com

It might seem strange in this information age, but the Happy Anniversary announcements are compiled manually, so with circumstances beyond my control, I did not have the associated information available to me to publish these announcements for over three-months. In order not to miss anybody's milestone, four months worth of Happy Anniversary announcements appear in this issue.- The Editor



Happy Anniversary

The Guardian Staff is pleased to announce the milestones achieved by the following SPOG members during the month of September 2008!



35 years of Service

Sergeant Eddie Rivera, West Precinct
Sergeant Roger Rusness, South Precinct
Detective Dave Murray, Fugitive Warrants

30 years of Service

Detective Alexander Stephens, North Detectives

25 years of Service

Sergeant Brad Thomas, ICAC
Detective Tim Fields, SAU
Officer Mark Body, North Precinct
Officer Bob Cavin, Traffic

20 years of Service

Sergeant Larry Brotherton, West Precinct
Sergeant Brian Kraus, West Precinct
Sergeant Randy Woolery, OPA-IS
Detective Will Cravens, South Detectives
Detective Nate Gasperetti, Homicide
Detective Ron Sanders, TCI
Officer Byron Rand, North Precinct
Officer Rob Blanco

15 years of Service

Detective John Farrar, CAU
Officer Butch Cason, Motors
Officer Roy Ellis, West Precinct
Officer Ron Mazziotti, SW Precinct
Officer Erik Warner, West Precinct
Officer Tim Barnes, North Precinct

10 years of Service

Detective Suzanne Long, Domestic Violence
Detective Leslie Smith, SAU
Officer Amy Branham, South Precinct
Officer Sam Cook, West Precinct
Officer Theresa Digalis, North Precinct
Officer Matt Hendry, SWAT
Officer Ben Hughey, South Precinct
Officer Ken Mazucca, SW Precinct
Officer Craig McRae, South Precinct
Officer Andre Sinn, Employment Services
Officer Adonis Topacio, SW Precinct
Officer Gerald House, East Precinct

5 years of Service

Officer Marie Gochmour, SW Precinct
Officer Courtenay Harris, East Precinct
Officer Cameron Probst, South Precinct



Happy Anniversary

The Guardian Staff is pleased to announce the milestones achieved by the following SPOG members during the month of October 2008!



40 years of Service

Officer Mike Hargraves, North Precinct

30 years of Service

Officer Steve Van Arnam, SW Precinct

25 years of Service

Detective Sergeant Patricia Hayes, West Detectives
Detective Mike Ciesynski, Homicide
Detective Suzanne Moore, Bias Crimes
Officer Mark Wubenna, Mounted

20 years of Service

Detective Andy Norton, TCI
Officer Michael Torres, SW Precinct

15 years of Service

Detective Shandy Cobane, Gang Unit
Officer Karla Cockbain, East Precinct
Officer Steve Hirjak, North Precinct
Officer Randy Huserik, WSCJTC
Officer Mark Jamieson, Media Response
Officer Rene Miller, West Precinct

10 years of Service

Officer Ron Hylton, SW Precinct

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S.P.A.A. Monthly Meeting is 12/10/08
@ Chinooks Restaurant

Contact Buzzy Katzer for more details

206-999-8029 or BB29BUZZY@Comcast.net



Happy Anniversary

The Guardian Staff is pleased to announce the milestones achieved by the following SPOG members during the month of November 2008!



25 years of Service

Sergeant Paul Leung, South Precinct

20 years of Service

Sergeant Eric Zerr, South Precinct
Detective Rudy Gonzales, Narcotics
Detective Gary Kinner, Narcotics
Detective Don Ledbetter, CSI
Officer Laury Pendergrass, East Precinct

15 years of Service

Detective Ron Smith, Pawn Shop
Officer Monique Avery, Employment Services
Officer Bridget Hillan, North Precinct
Officer Clark Pine, North Precinct
Officer Joel Huston, SW Precinct

10 years of Service

Detective Carma Clark, Employment Services
Officer Marty Harris, West Precinct
Officer Jon Huber, Traffic
Officer Randy Maxwell, North Precinct
Officer Brehon Ness, SWAT
Officer Jeff Sharp, North Precinct
Officer Cory Simmons, West Precinct
Officer Brian Thomas, North Precinct
Officer John Velliquette, Traffic
Officer Maurice Washington, South Precinct
Officer Tomeka Williams, North Precinct



Happy Anniversary

The Guardian Staff is pleased to announce the milestones achieved by the following SPOG members during the month of December 2008!



40 years of Service

Officer Tom Blair, Harbor

30 years of Service

Sergeant Dave Abe, Traffic
Sergeant Mike "Dad" Brady, West Precinct
Detective Tina Drain, Bias Crimes

20 years of Service

Detective Kevin Smith, Robbery

15 years of Service

Officer Joe Pioli, SWAT
Officer Lance Basney, North Precinct

10 years of Service

Officer Therese Beemster, West Precinct
Officer Mike Lanz, K9

Come See Our New Office!



Jennifer DeCastro

- For 40 years, **Bellevue ENT Clinic** has offered exceptional hearing health care to the Bellevue community.
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A Police Training Seminar for all SPD Employees

SAVE THE DATE:

Weds March 11, 2009

BOEING on E. Marginal Way S. Seattle, WA
0700-1600 hrs

FEATURED GUEST SPEAKERS:

Bobby Smith, Former Louisiana State Trooper
Trainer and Author of "Visions of Courage"
and "The Will to Survive"

Colleen Nick,
Founder of Morgan Nick Foundation
Sponsor of "Project Hope" - to assist families
who have a missing child

Registration is open to current SPD employees
Email Edie Burke @ edie.burke@seattle.gov to hold your spot today.

Retired News

By Mike Germann

NEW SEATTLE POLICE DEPARTMENT RETIREMENTS

Not only are there no new Seattle Police Department sworn retirements to publish this month, we hear that some former S.P.D. officers, who "jumped ship" prior to the Police Guild's current contract settlement with the City of Seattle, to take police positions with other agencies, are now asking for reinstatement (re-hire) with S.P.D. This is due, of course, to substantial salary increases in the current Guild contract.

Moral: The grass is not always greener....

It remains to be seen if the Seattle Police Department will actually hire back those requesting reinstatement.

Stayed tuned. This should be interesting.

BILLS AND CLAIMS FOR 2008 DUE NOW

Now is the time to look through your paperwork at home and submit any 2008 outstanding bills, claims and reimbursement requests to the Police Pension Office. Mail to:

Seattle Police Pension Office
P.O. Box 94729
Seattle, Washington 98124-4729

or

FAX to: (206) 386-9075

Tom reminds me to let you know that he needs all Medicare claims paperwork at once, not a piece at a time. Usually, this consists of:

- *Medicare Summary Report
- *Medicare Supplement E.O.B.* Report (*Explanation of Benefits)
- *Bills from the service provider showing date, medical service rendered, and balance due after other payments.

Your outstanding bills will be paid quickly and accurately if we have the complete paperwork. Otherwise, figuring out what to pay can take longer.

Call Tom Grabicki at (206) 386-1287 if you have any questions about medical bills and claims.

SOCIAL SECURITY PAYMENTS TO INCREASE IN '09

According to published reports, Social Security payments to those so entitled will increase in January 2009 by 5.8%. THIS IS THE LARGEST SINGLE YEAR INCREASE IN MORE THAN A QUARTER CENTURY. Usually, the annual increase is in the 2% - 4% range and offset by increases in Medicare premiums and deductibles.

Amazingly, the 2009 Social Security monthly payment increase will not be offset by an increase in Medicare Part "B" premiums and the annual deductible. Both the Part "B" premium of \$96.40/month and the annual Medicare deductible of \$135/year will remain the same as the 2008 rates.

We don't know why it's this way with Social Security and Medicare in 2009, we just know what is published.

ANNUAL REPORTS COMING BY YEAR END

All Seattle Police pensioners and lawful beneficiaries (widows) receiving pension benefits will be receiving annual reporting form(s) by the end of December 2008.

It is important that you promptly complete your report(s) and mail it back to the Seattle Police Pension Office by the end of January 2009.

Government auditors look to these completed reports to validate benefit payments.

Any questions about annual reports can be directed to Elaine at (206) 386-1286 in the Police Pension Office.

RETIRE SEATTLE POLICE OFFICERS' ASSOCIATION NEWS

Retired Seattle Police Officers Association Minutes of the Monthly Meeting November 12, 2008

President Taylor called the meeting to order at 11:50 AM in the dining room of the Four Seas Restaurant at 8th South and King St. November 12, 2008

Ed Caalim led the Pledge of Allegiance and Taylor asked all for a moment of silence for the recent passing of Ken Trent, November 7th.

Roll call of officers showed all present with the exception of John Sullivan who was excused.

President Taylor indicated the minutes of the October meeting have been distributed and asked for any additions or corrections. Dan Melton moved the minutes be accepted as written, seconded by John Guich and passed.

Nick Bulpin gave the financial report and Ted Fonis made the motion to submit the report for audit. President Taylor then appointed Pat Munter and John Nordlund to serve as the audit committee and prepare a report for the December meeting.

President Taylor indicated there is a scheduled Coalition meeting next week and went on to report he has received copies of past minutes and they are under review.

President Taylor welcomed Ann Rule as a guest speaker. Ms Rule recalled her experience with the Seattle Police Department with a serial number in the 1400's wanting to fulfill a lifelong dream of being a Police Officer, however, she was denied permanent employment due to poor eyesight. She graduated from the UW with a degree in creative writing and went on to pen several hundred articles for various detective magazines as well as news paper articles. She taught classes on sociopath behavior. In 1980 she wrote her first book "Stranger Beside Me" about Ted Bundy. She continued to write 2 books a year for a total of 28 books with her newest "Mortal Danger" due out November 25th. She expressed gratitude to the Homicide Unit of the Seattle Police Department for providing her some case history. She stated she never runs out of subjects to write about. She then fielded questions from the audience. She was greeted with a warm applause and shared lunch.

President Taylor welcomed Mike Germann, Secretary of the Police Pension Office. Germann started off by noting the funeral service for Ken Trent was scheduled for Saturday, November 15th in Tacoma. Germann then reported the Pension Office paid out \$4,718,000.00 to retired officers and widows October 31st. This was due to the recent contract settlement by the Guild and City of Seattle. He explained there are four divisions of retirement benefits and none are the same and require individual calculations. The four divisions are those on a fixed pension. Then there are 62 recipients of the Escalator plan followed by retirees under 41.20 and 41.26, these are considered entitlements and lastly 41.26 retirees consisting of those hired after March 1970 with no entitlements. Those recipients receive the best of both benefits due beneficiaries and retirees. January 2009 there will be a 5.5% increase in the cost of living and this raise should be reflected on the February check. Germann

stated this is a four year contract. Mike responded to questions from the audience noting that not everyone had income tax deducted from payments as the pension office does not have the authority to collect tax unless specified by the retiree.

There being no further business Ivan Fielberg moved the meeting be adjourned and 64 people enjoyed another great lunch.

Nick Bulpin, Secretary/Treasurer

2008 MEDICARE REIMBURSEMENT REQUESTS DUE NOW

Published in this issue of the GUARDIAN for the LAST TIME THIS YEAR, is the 2008 Medicare Reimbursement Request form. Previously, this form was published in last month's GUARDIAN and the autumn 2008 issue of THE CALL BOX. Retired S.P.D. LEOFF I and ESCALATOR members on Medicare are asked to file their reimbursement claim NOW. Call Tom at (206) 386-1287 in the Police Pension Office if you need help completing the reimbursement form. (Please see other page for the form).

HOLIDAY GREETINGS

The 2008 Seattle Police Pension Board:

Chair Tim Burgess (City Council Member and Mayor's Representative)

Trustee Dwight Dively (Finance Director)

Trustee Judith Pippin (City Clerk)

Trustee Dave Grayson (retired A/Chief)

Trustee Ray Carroll (retired Major)

Trustee Dan Oliver (active Captain)

And the 2008 Seattle Police Pension Office staff:

Executive Secretary Mike Germann

Assistant Executive Secretary Elaine Danielson (Pension Benefits)

Assistant Executive Secretary Tom Grabicki (Medical Benefits)

and

Retired Assistant Executive Secretary John Patrick Sullivan (who retired for good in early 2008)

Ronda Weston (our outstanding part timer who helps when we're overloaded)

ALL WANT TO TAKE THIS OPORTUNITY TO WISH ALL OF OUR SEATTLE POLICE PENSION FUND MEMBERS AND FRIENDS THE VERY BEST OF TIMES DURING THE HOLIDAYS. TRULY, WE ALL HAVE MUCH FOR WHICH WE ARE GRATEFUL.

POLICE PENSION OFFICE STAFF WILL DO ITS BEST TO MEET YOUR NEEDS IN 2009. ENJOY YOURSELVES!

****NOTICE****

**LEOFF I AND ESCALATOR RETIRED SEATTLE POLICE PENSION FUND MEMBERS ONLY
2008 MEDICARE REIMBURSEMENT REQUEST**

This form is only for LEOFF I or ESCALATOR retired Seattle Police Pension Fund members (not beneficiaries) on MEDICARE, and is a reimbursement request for premiums you paid and other expenses in conjunction with Medicare and, in some cases, for Medicare Supplement (Regence). Reimbursement will only be considered in response to your submitting a claim for your out-of-pocket expenses in 2008. Those who are covered by a Medicare supplement through Premera Blue Cross, your premiums are paid directly by the Police Pension Office and are not reimbursable.

The \$135 annual Medicare deductible is also reimbursable if you paid the deductible yourself. In that case, send a copy of the Medicare report showing the amount of deductible you met for 2008. In most cases the Police Pension Office has already paid the \$135 deductible during the course of the year. (If you are uncertain about your coverage, please contact Tom Grabicki at 206-386-1287.)

Medicare Premium, Part B \$96.40* x _____ = \$ _____ # of months
(Deducted from your Social Security check or paid quarterly by you.)
***Standard premium amount.**

Strike out \$96.40 and insert your true rate for reimbursement if different than standard rate. Proof of non-standard rate required.

Premium for Regence Blue Shield \$ _____ x _____ = \$ _____ # of months
(Supplement to Medicare or equivalent)

Medicare deductible \$ _____
Maximum of \$135, if applicable (See paragraph 2 above)

TOTAL \$ _____

Name (Please Print) _____
Address _____
City _____ State _____
Zip _____

SIGNATURE _____

Please return this reimbursement form to:
Seattle Police Pension Office
PO Box 94729
Seattle, WA 98124-4729

Last Ring



Robert E. Lee, #846, retired Seattle Police Detective, passed away on October 11, 2008, while a patient at Saint Expeditus Nursing Home in Lake Forest Park. He was 88 years of age upon his death.

Robert E. Lee was born on November 22, 1919. He was appointed a Seattle Police "Patrolman" on June 9, 1947. Bob Lee worked in uniformed patrol at the North Precinct for 12 years. Thereafter, he was appointed a detective and assigned to Burglary/Theft where he served until his retirement from police service on May 23, 1971. Bob Lee is remembered as a hard working, conscientious police officer. He was a pretty good badminton player, too, so we're told.

Bob Lee's long time partner was Denny Driscoll, #711, who is long since passed. Bob Lee's wife of 50 years, June, preceded him in death on August 2, 1998. Surviving is a daughter, Cheryl, and a son, Michael.

A "Time of Remembrance" was held November 2, 2008, at Anthony's Homeport Restaurant on Shilshole Bay, Seattle. Those who knew Bob Lee shared their memories of him.



We also want to commemorate the passing of the following:

- ❖ retired Seattle Assistant Chief Brent Wingstrand's mother, LORNA DELL WINGSTRAND, passed away suddenly on October 22, 2008. She was 85 years of age;
- ❖ retired longtime Seattle Councilmember JEANETTE WILLIAMS passed away on October 24, 2008 at 94 years of age.



OUR CONDOLENCES TO FAMILY AND FRIENDS. MAY THEY ALL REST IN PEACE.

December 2008 Retirees' Birthdays

Ed. Note: the number in parenthesis is the retiree's December birthdate.
Michael W. Allen (20), Roger H. Amundson (15), Stephen E. Anderson (23), Ronald L. Aslett (19), Barrie L. Bailey (6), Randall W. Benson (15), John D. Boatman (14), Michael D. Brasfield (28), Ivory Brooks, Jr. (21), John W. Brummett (24), Richard C. Buckland, Jr (10), Nicholas J. Bulpin (29), Adeline L. Campbell (10), Joyce A. Chase (25), Charles R. Connery (29), Ronald D. Copeland (19), Merlyn R. Dickhaut (21), Harriet D. Dionne (2), Michael S. Donnelly (7), N. Jewell Dunston (22), James P. Dymont (24), Allen J. Earlywine (25), Barbara Fletcher (6), Marie Franzen (17), Mark L. Gilbert (19), Evelyn Golder (25), Raymond A. Gonstead (12), Charles M. Gorham (29), Allan R. Gustin (1), Harold H. Haley (17), Vesta Verlaine Hanson-Gottry (2), Charles S. Harris (28), Lloyd J. Hart (1), Sally S. Hofstee (21), Michael Hori (29), Timothy A. Hubbard (1), Philip B. Hurd (12), James M. Jacobson (28), David W. Jessup (28), George Patrick Johnson (6), Richard L. Johnson (3), Arne D. Jorgensen (23), Dennis P. Kelly (27), William L. Kirk (30), Tommy B. Knight (19), Mary J. Kulgren (15), Theodore C. Lappier (20), Charles E. Layman (7), Skip Lindsey (17), Fred E. Lipke (27), Howard F. Lischke (23), Judith A. Lorange (31), Allan R. Lorette (29), Gerard P. Lui (4), William J. Magrillio (7), David B. Malinowski (15), Virginia Manus (22), Edwin C. Marion (8), Robin R. McCurley (16), Ronald C. Mcnaught (27), Jack E. Meduna (18), Bernie L. Miller (6), Virginia J. Mills (13), James D. Nicholson (3), Allister H. O'Brien (25), Shaun M. O'kinsella (3), Frank W. Ottersbach (22), Cary G. Parkes (12), David A. Peppard (29), Glayd S. Perkins (12), Janet A. Plumb (15), Donald L. Poindexter (8), Russell F. Proctor (17), John L. Quaale (27), Steven B. Quint (20), Victoria A. Roller (30), Donald C. Rothaus (29), Richard W. Rovig (22), Albert L. Schrader (12), Charles B. Seely (15), Lawrence G. Shaffer (31), Tyrone P. Sheffey (21), Richard S. Somonski (5), Shirley E. Strunk (2), Steven M. Thomas (9), Peggy A. Timm (21), Robert W. Trebon (27), Shirley Vance (26), Kathleen Watson (22), Julius L. Werner (13), Elmer H. Wittman (23).

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Harriet Benjamin
Sales Associate

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Editor's Notes

By Detective Ron Smith, Editor



I hope that each of you enjoyed a very special Thanksgiving this year. I for one have so much to be thankful for this year, as I do every year. It is truly a blessing to have such a sincere and generous group of friends, co-workers and family willing to step up in a big way to pick me up when I was down. I am so thankful for a gracious and loving Lord, who allowed me to find the light during some very dark days; and I give Him praises and glory for the blessing of a healthy and beautiful baby girl. Daddy's heart has been melted again! I hope each of you can measure the blessings in your lives and savor the richness.

I wish each of you and your families a Merry Christmas and a joyous and prosperous New Year

Calendar of Events

Seattle Police Relief Association board meeting at the SPRAG Office

Wednesday, December 10th at 1300 hours

SPAA Monthly Meeting at Chinooks

Wednesday, December 10th

SPOG Board Nominations Close

Wednesday, December 17th at 1630 hours

SPOG Membership Meeting (Note: Date has changed!)

Wednesday, December 17th at 2000 hours

Christmas Eve and Christmas Day (SPOG Office Closed)

December 24th and December 25th

New Years Eve (SPOG Office Closed)

Wednesday, December 31st

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- 5.11 Range Ready Bad (#59049)
- 5.11 Tactical Gun Case (any)

- OR -

Buy \$150 or more of 5.11 products and receive a FREE Sabre Jacket (\$179.99 value).

Offer expires 12/31/08 and subject to availability. See store for details.

Happy Holidays!

Seattle 8610 Aurora Ave N 800-537-5277
 M-F 9:00am - 5:30pm
 Sa 9:00am - 1:00pm

Des Moines 21621 Pacific Hwy S 800-495-6265
 M-Th 10:00am - 6:00pm
 Fr 10:00am - 5:30pm

www.blumenthaluniforms.com



Important Date!!!

SPOG Membership Meeting
Wednesday, December 17th
2000 hours
Complimentary Dinner All Members Welcome

The Seattle Police Motorcycle Drill Team presents:

2009 Talent Show

Friday, March 20, 5 pm

Seattle Police Range Pavilion

Only! \$25 per person

To Perform in the Show: call Mike Henry 206 799-1175

Call For ticket information: Sgt. Brian Johnson 206-733-9189 Or any Drill Team member

Headline Entertainment
Dinner and Beverages
Fantastic Raffle Prizes
Officer of the Year Award
Dance the Night Away
Music by "Kevin O'Neill"